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DEC 13 2005

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

Applicant: Stinnette
Appl. No.: 10/725,083
Filing Date: April 27, 2004
Title: PLASTIC DISPOSABLE TRASH CAN COVER
Pub. No.: US 2005/0115970 A1
Pub. Date: July 14, 2005

This is a decision on the request for corrected of patent application publication under 37 CFR 1.221(b), filed on September 14, 2005, for the above-identified application

The request is DISMISSED.

Applicant requests that the application be republished because the patent application publication contains material errors, as the publication does not include the Brief Description of the Drawings submitted by an amendment in response to an Office Notice.

37 CFR 1.221(b) is applicable "only when the Office makes a material mistake which is apparent from Office records . . . Any request for a corrected publication or revised patent application publication other than provided as provided in paragraph (a) of this section must be filed within two months from the date of the patent application publication. This period is not extendable." A material mistake must affect the public's ability to appreciate the technical disclosure of the patent application publication, to determine the scope of the patent application publication, or to determine the scope of the provisional rights that an applicant may seek to enforce upon issuance of a patent.¹

The patent application publication does not include a mistake with respect to the preliminary amendment for the Brief Description of the Drawings. The patent application publication does not include a mistake regarding the failure to include the preliminary amendment in the publication by the Office because patent application publications are not required to include preliminary amendments, according to 37 CFR 1.215(a)², which says the following, in part:

¹Changes to Implement Eighteen-Month Publication of Patent Applications, 65 FR 57023, 57038 (Sept. 20, 2000), 1239 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office Notices 63, 75 (Oct. 10, 2000) (final rule).

²Changes to Support Implementation of the United States Patent and Trademark Office 21st Century Strategic Plan; Final Rule, 69 FR 56482 (Sept. 21, 2004).

(a) ... The patent application publication will be based upon the specification and drawings deposited on the filing date of the application, as well as the executed oath or declaration submitted to complete the application. **The patent application publication may also be based upon amendments to the specification (other than the abstract or the claims) that are reflected in a substitute specification under Sec. 1.125(b),** amendments to the abstract under Sec. 1.121(b), amendments to the claims that are reflected in a complete claim listing under Sec. 1.121(c), and amendments to the drawings under Sec. 1.121(d), provided that such substitute specification or amendment is submitted in sufficient time to be entered into the Office file wrapper of the application before technical preparations for publication of the application have begun. (emphasis added)

§ 1.215(c) says the following:

(c) At applicant's option, the patent application publication will be based upon the copy of the application (specification, drawings, and oath or declaration) as amended, provided that applicant supplies such a copy in compliance with the Office electronic filing system requirements within one month of the mailing date of the first Office communication that includes a confirmation number for the application, or fourteen months of the earliest filing date for which a benefit is sought under title 35, United States Code, whichever is later.

While the patent application publication may now include a preliminary amendment, the Office is not required to use the preliminary amendment. The Office changed the procedures for publication of patent applications so as to publish applications as amended, when possible. Until this past year, patent application publications were published as originally filed. See Patent Application Publications May Now Include Amendments, 1281 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office Notices 53 (April 13, 2004). The preliminary amendments to the specification filed September 3, 2004, does not comply with 37 CFR 1.125(b). The Office correctly published the application in accordance with 37 CFR 1.215(a).

The applicant is advised that a “request for republication of an application previously published” may be filed under 37 CFR 1.221(a). Such a request for republication “must include a copy of the application in compliance with the Office’s electronic filing system requirements and be accompanied by the publication fee set forth in § 1.18(d) and the processing fee set forth in § 1.17(i).” If the request for republication does not comply with the electronic filing system requirements, the republication will not take place and the publication fee set forth in § 1.18(d) will be refunded. The processing fee will be retained.

Any request for republication under 37 CFR 1.221(a), must be submitted via the EFS system and questions or request for reconsideration of the decision, should be addressed as follows:

By mail to: Mail Stop PGPUB
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Va. 22313-1450

By facsimile: 571-273-8300

Inquiries relating to this matter may be directed to Mark O. Polutta at (571) 272-7709.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark O. Polutta', with a stylized, flowing script.

Mark O. Polutta
Office of Patent Legal Administration
Office of the Deputy Commissioner
for Patent Examination Policy